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Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

The "magic of the market" is in competition. Without competition, "the market" is no better than a government-run program, full of inefficiencies & nothing spurring it to get better. In fact, it's worse, because there's the owner class constantly skimming off the top, trying to provide worse service for higher cost, so they can pocket the difference.

I currently use Sonic.net for internet access because they are a competitor to telecom giants like AT&T. Without companies like Sonic, the future of internet in our country is doomed.

The \*best\* thing we can do toward this end is nationalize the data pipes. Pipes of all sorts should be public utilities, able to be serviced at the terminal end by a variety of service providers.

The reason for this is simply pragmatism. You wouldn't want 10 roads from point A to point B in the name of competition would you? There'd be no space left to build buildings. Not to mention it would be a huge waste of time & money & would be a city planning nightmare. And how competitive do you think UPS could be if FedEx owned all the roads? The same reasons (limited space, wanting to limit how often & for how long our roads are torn up, planning constraints, encouraging competition, etc) mean we should have public data pipes for access to the internet. This way, no one company can "put a moat" around their business by sinking billions of dollars into laying private fiber lines. That's an outlay that should only happen once.

Just as the WPA electrified rural America, we can internetify all of America, with faster service & fairer prices. But we need shared infrastructure.

Steve Hull